

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

March 2,, 2015

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

### News

#### **Change for Kids**

This is the last week of Student Council's fundraiser. The goal is to raise \$1000 to help fund Hope for Uganda and School the World. These charities will help raise funds for schools in Uganda and Guatemala. If each student contributes just \$2, we will reach our goal. There will be change collection containers in each classroom. Please encourage your child to donate any spare change to this worthwhile fundraiser.

#### **Snow Gear**

Please remember that all students go out for recess and need hats, gloves, and mittens. Many students are coming in from recess with wet feet. You may want to send in an extra pair of socks as well.

#### **Typing Practice**

Students can log on to Typing Training from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Typing Training program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:  
<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

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### **SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS**

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) 5th graders have just finished their "Design an Ad" contest run by the Wednesday Journal. You can get a sneak peek at our ads on my blog or now on Twitter @HolmesArt97 The winning ads will be run in the newspaper right before spring break!

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Mid term music update

Currently the 5th grade is working on two projects: their recorder performance of "Song for Winter" and their compositions. The recording of **"Song for Winter" is due Wednesday 2/25. Here are the students who have completed their assignment.**

Mira Arvind  
Lauren Kocheny  
Caden Scheuring

Caroline Lever  
Harry Dear  
Sophie Larrat  
Alexandra Kocheny  
Micah Greenberg

If your child's name is not on this list, then they need to finish the recording assignment by 2/25. I will be having a help session next Thursday February 19th and Monday February 23rd at 11:45 in the music room. Copies of the sheet music for the piece are in my room or can be found on my blog under the 5th grade link at [makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com](http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com). The students need to make sure that I can see their fingers/ the recorder in the video they make. Then they email to me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org) and I will write them to tell them if they have passed or not.

The composition assignment will be done entirely at school. If a student is behind they can come to the same help sessions, I have listed above.

**Special Music Notice**--- I am looking to form a group of students to try out some more complex Orff (xylophone) pieces with me after school (3-4 on Tuesday or Thursday). This is very informal for now, but may involve a performance later in the year. Priority will be given to students who are not in any other music group at Holmes. If your child is interested, please email me at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org).

**Chorus and Gold Belt** - Chorus will be working on songs and the choral festival. Gold Belt will be working on small ensemble songs for our April concert (date TBD).

**Spanish** - Students can still read their last story to someone for extra puntos; they are posted below. Last week, we started the fifth grade superstory....5K started off the story and 5P and 5M will continue the story. 5F will write the conclusion. We will see what they come up with!

5P Tucán El Gato Gruñón

<https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/document/d/1QOYijj5MbRLr58FtRoZbfCNEK60HzpmUEXv0K7AB7jk/edit?usp=sharing>

5F-Silvia La Musaraña

<https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/document/d/16TM10jT2vqL9K-ZIBVv1MmCY356tvICT1lz8FMj2DUw/edit?usp=sharing>

5K Rosa Necesita una Cabeza

[https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/document/d/11YST\\_EIVF-hGbx7vYhP8RaMQn8q8ltFjaFwI5tJ-eRI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/document/d/11YST_EIVF-hGbx7vYhP8RaMQn8q8ltFjaFwI5tJ-eRI/edit?usp=sharing)

5M Nacho Y la Pizza Peligrosa

<https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/document/d/1ByHL5-Sz-bRFdPOR19zLWACD5nGflf53qncShzFfNE4/edit?usp=sharing>

**Library - Regular Library news:** This past week we talked about cyberbullying. The topic of cyberbullying has been pervasive in our culture since the Internet really took off, and can happen on phones, through the computer, ipad, or any digital device. Cyberbullying is different from physical bullying in that it can occur 24/7. The good thing is that our students know a lot about cyberbullying and understand that the most important thing is to keep the evidence (emails, texts, screenshots) and involve an adult as soon as possible in any bullying situation.

**Reading Olympics:** The Holmes competition is THIS WEEK, **Wednesday, March 4th**. The Holmes competition will be held during library time. The district competition will be the following week, Tuesday, March 10th at the River Forest Public Library. Those students' families will be notified and asked to sign a permission form for that day. Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions or concerns. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

**Physical Education** - February is Gymnastic Unit here at Holmes. The kids will be swinging, hanging, climbing, rolling, cartwheeling, somersaulting, and many other equilibrium building balancing acts.  
([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

### **Reading/Literature**

During the last weeks of January and the beginning of February, we will focus on comprehending expository nonfiction texts. We will practice “revving up” our minds to read nonfiction by reading text features such as the table of contents, headings, subheadings, charts, graphs, and diagrams. We will also focus on remembering main ideas and details as we read and take notes in a “boxes and bullets” format. We will also analyze nonfiction texts to figure out what structures the author used, and we will tailor our thinking and notes to fit these structures. These structures include description, compare and contrast, problem and solution, cause and effect, and sequence.

### **Writing**

Students will be working on academic vocabulary and reading informational text this week.

### **Math**

This week, students will continue to work with decimals. At the beginning of the week, we will be working on rounding decimals to various places. Students will be using a vertical open number line to help with rounding. At the end of the week, we will review addition and subtraction of decimals. From then on, the focus will be on multiplying and dividing decimals.

### **Science**

In science this week, students will continue to learn more about how changing a variable can change the outcome of an experiment. We will use a catapult experiment to first change the length of the “flipper” and then change the item launched. Students will then graph the data. For more information on the science fair, please visit the wiki at this link:

<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>

Please contact your child’s science teacher with questions about the project.

### **Social Studies**

In Social Studies we are learning about the formation of the colonies. Through powerpoint, text book, and group presentations students will take notes about the New England, Middle and Southern colonies. We are organizing notes into categories such as climate, natural resources, jobs, education, freedom of religion, and slavery. Eventually, students will write a “Colonial Handbill”. This is a persuasive letter written from a historical perspective that attempts to draw readers to a specific colony.

### **Spelling/Word Study**

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We learn that the bases “scrib” and “script” mean “write” and that “dict” means “say,” “speak,” or “tell.”

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We’re on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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